

R430-70-5: CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE.

(1) The provider shall maintain a clean and sanitary environment.

Rationale / Explanation

Young children sneeze, cough, drool, use diapers and are just learning to use the toilet. They hug, kiss, and touch everything and put objects in their mouths. Illnesses may be spread in a variety of ways, such as by coughing, sneezing, direct skin-to-skin contact, or touching a contaminated object or surface. Respiratory tract secretions that can contain viruses (including respiratory syncytial virus and rhinovirus) contaminate environmental surfaces and may present an opportunity for infection by contact. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 116-117 Standard 3.3.0.1

Developing a cleaning schedule that delegates responsibility to specific staff members helps to ensure that the facility is properly cleaned on a regular basis. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 260 Standard 5.7.0.5

It is also important to keep all areas and equipment used for the storage, preparation, and service of food clean and sanitary. Outbreaks of food-borne illness have occurred in child care settings. Many of these can be prevented through appropriate sanitation methods. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 193 Standard 4.9.0.9

It is recommended, though not required by rule, that sponges not be used for cleaning and sanitizing. This is because sponges harbor bacteria and are difficult to completely clean and sanitize in between cleaning surface areas. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 193 Standard 4.9.0.9

Cracked or porous surfaces cannot be kept clean and sanitary because they trap organic materials in which microorganisms can grow. Repairs with duct tape and other similar materials add surfaces that also trap organic materials. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 186 Standard 4.8.0.3; pgs. 240-241 Standard 5.3.1.6

Many children have allergies to dust mites, which are microscopic insects that ingest the tiny particles of skin that people shed normally every day. Dust mites live in carpeting and fabric but can be killed by frequent washing and drying in a heated dryer. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 239 Standard 5.3.1.4

Enforcement

A certain amount of mess is normal when caring for active children. In enforcing this rule, licensors will need to distinguish between messes made as the consequence of an activity done that day and a chronic buildup of dirt, soil, food, etc. over time where disease-causing bacteria can grow.

A finding will be issued only when there is no other more specific rule that applies to the cleanliness of the environment.

Level 2 Noncompliance if there are any of the following:

- rotting food or a buildup of food on a surface*
- a slippery spill on a floor*
- mold growing*
- a visible buildup of dirt, soil, grime, etc. that germs could grow in*
- a buildup of cobwebs, bugs, or carpets in need of cleaning, when there is a child with asthma or another known respiratory condition enrolled in the group.*

Level 3 Noncompliance if there are any of the following:

- a buildup of cobwebs, bugs, or carpets in need of cleaning, but there is no child with asthma or another known respiratory condition enrolled in the group.*

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- *damaged flooring, walls or fixtures in restrooms that cannot be sanitized, such as torn or peeling linoleum, missing tiles, or a duct-taped broken toilet tank lid.*

- (2) The provider shall clean and sanitize bathroom surfaces daily, including toilets, sinks, faucets, and counters.**

Rationale / Explanation

A clean and sanitary environment helps to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. This is especially important in bathrooms, where fecal material can be easily spread to any surface children touch. Regular and thorough cleaning of bathrooms can prevent the spread of diseases.

Illnesses may be spread a variety of ways, including touching a contaminated object or surface. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) recommend that all bathroom surfaces be cleaned and disinfected daily. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 116-117 Standard 3.3.0.1; pgs. 442-443 Appendix K

Enforcement

If the provider uses it as specified by the manufacturer, any product that has manufacturer instructions for how to use it as a sanitizer will be accepted as a sanitizing solution.

If bleach water is used to sanitize a fresh solution must be made at least every 24 hours and be left on the surface to be sanitized for at least two minutes. According to the manufacturer, after 24 hours the bleach mixture loses its ability to sanitize. However, bleach water may be kept longer than 24 hours if the provider tests the sanitizer with a test strip and the test strip indicates the bleach water registers at least 50 parts per million on the strip.

If operated according to the manufacturer's instructions, a steam cleaner may be used to meet the requirement for cleaning and sanitizing.

Level 2 Noncompliance if there are visible feces on a bathroom surface children could touch.

Level 3 Noncompliance if bathroom surfaces are not cleaned and sanitized daily but there is not visible feces or if there is a buildup of urine on a surface.

- (3) The provider shall take safe and effective measures to prevent and eliminate the presence of insects, rodents, and other vermin.**

Rationale / Explanation

Insects, rodents, and vermin carry disease and may also sting or bite children. The purpose of this rule is to reduce these potential hazards to children. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 205 Standard 5.1.3.3; pg. 226 Standard 5.2.8.1

Some insect and rodent feces can also trigger asthma attacks in children.

Enforcement

If there is a problem with insects, rodents, or other vermin, and the Licensee can show they have scheduled an exterminator and are doing extra cleaning when necessary to keep the environment as safe as possible until that time, the Licensor will follow up to see if this is done by the scheduled date before issuing a finding.

This rule is not intended to prevent children from participating in science activities with insects (for example,

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butterflies, lady bugs, or preying mantises).

Level 1 Noncompliance if there are beehives or wasp's nests in the outdoor play area and there are children in care who are allergic to bee or wasp stings.

Level 2 Noncompliance if insects, rodents, or other vermin are visibly present in the facility or droppings are found in a food delivery, storage, preparation, or eating area, or in areas accessible to children or if there are beehives or wasp's nests in the outdoor play area but there are no children in care who are allergic to bee or wasp stings.

Level 3 Noncompliance otherwise.

- (4) The provider shall maintain ceilings, walls, floor coverings, draperies, blinds, furniture, fixtures, and equipment in good repair to prevent injury to children.**

Rationale / Explanation

The physical structure where children spend each day can present safety concerns if it is not kept in good repair and maintained in a safe condition. For example, peeling paint in older buildings may be ingested, floor surfaces in disrepair could cause falls and other injuries, broken windows could cause severe cuts. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 261 Standard 5.7.0.7

The purpose of this rule is to prevent harm to children due to a poorly maintained facility or broken equipment. Examples of this include being cut on a sharp edge or point of a broken item, tripping over loose carpeting or tiles, falling from collapsing broken furniture, etc. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 277 Standard 6.2.5.1; pg. 374 Standard 9.2.6.1

Light fixtures containing shielded or shatterproof bulbs should be used throughout the child care facility. Use of a shield or shatterproof bulbs prevents injury to people and contamination of food. Halogen lights burn at a temperature of 1200 degrees Fahrenheit and are a potential burn or fire hazard. Multi-vapor and mercury lamps can be harmful when the outer bulb is broken, causing serious skin burns and eye inflammation. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 217-218 Standard 5.2.2.2; pg. 218 Standard 5.2.2.3

Enforcement

If a florescent light has an individual cover on the florescent bulb, the Licensee will be considered to be in compliance with this rule.

Level 2 Noncompliance examples:

- exposed accessible electrical wiring.*
- deteriorating asbestos (the asbestos is peeling and residue is on the floor).*

Level 3 Noncompliance examples:

- accessible fiberglass insulation.*
- wooden equipment and furnishings that have splinters and are used by children.*
- cracks in equipment that could pinch a child's skin.*
- torn draperies or broken blinds that a child could become entangled in.*
- leaking plumbing other than a leaking faucet.*
- heat vents that are accessible to children and are missing covers.*
- exposed florescent light bulbs with no covering on the fixture.*

- (5) The provider shall maintain entrances, exits, steps and outside walkways in a safe condition, and**

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free of ice, snow, and other hazards.

Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to prevent injuries, including from falls, and to allow safe and timely exit from the building in case of emergency. CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 259 Standard 5.7.0.1; pg. 210 Standard 5.1.6.3, 5.1.6.4; pg. 207 Standard 5.1.4.3

Enforcement

Because they may be needed for exit in the event of an emergency, stairways must be maintained free of ice and snow.

The Licensee will be allowed a reasonable amount of time during and immediately after a snowstorm to remove snow from outdoor exit areas, stairs, and walkways. In this case, the Licensee is not considered out of compliance unless there is a buildup of snow or ice on these surfaces.

If a facility has a walkway greater than 3 feet wide, the Licensee will be considered in compliance with this rule if the walkway is cleared to a width of at least 3 feet and a distance of at least 6 feet from the facility.

Level 2 Noncompliance if there is a buildup of ice in one of these areas.

Level 3 Noncompliance otherwise.